

CREATE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE...

WITH A CAREER IN ARCHITECTURE

When she's sitting at her desk at the Albuquerque District of the Corps of Engineers, Maria Ugarte-Shelton seems easy to please.

"Whatever is under construction is my favorite project," she says amiably when asked about the favorite part of her job. But put her in an actual construction site and Maria becomes a stickler for details. She notes every nook and cranny of her design for a multi-million-dollar building.

"Before I came to the Corps," recalls Maria, "I spent four years working for architectural firms in the private sector. There I had no job security and not many challenges. At the Corps, I can do a lot with masonry and concrete – not just wood and steel framing. Plus I can use state-of-the-art technology and materials like the latest roofing and siding materials."

Most of Maria's private-sector experience was in residential and light commercial projects. Her Corps experience has broadened to include the design of laboratory facilities, vehicle maintenance complexes, and child development centers.

A 1981 graduate in architecture from the University of New Mexico, Maria

"Before I came to the Corps of Engineers, I had been working in private firms where what I was allowed to do was very limited. But at the Corps, I have a much greater opportunity to exercise all of my skills on a greater variety of projects."

**Maria Ugarte-Shelton
Architect**

joined the Corps in 1987. As a Corps employee, she was encouraged to get her master's degree, which she completed in 1992, the same year she became a registered architect in New Mexico. In addition, she has attended Corps training in paint inspection, basic fire protection, tempest design and architectural concrete inspection.

"What has been wonderful about my Corps experience is that everything I have designed has been built," says Maria. "My experience as an architect is much more than what I have done on paper. It is also what I have done in buildings I see around me everyday. I can think of nothing more satisfying."



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers